



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 9 years for Rush Hour Shooting

WASHINGTON - Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced that Mark Anthony Harris, 21, of the District of Columbia, was sentenced today by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, to 9 years of incarceration for Possession of a Firearm during a Crime of Violence and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Harris pled guilty to these charges on March 20, 2009. The charges arose from Harris's violent shooting of another District resident during morning rush hour, near the intersection of North Capitol and K Streets, N.W.

During his plea hearing, Harris admitted that on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at approximately 7:00 a.m., in the 1000 block of North Capitol Street, N.W., he was involved in an argument with the victim near a Metro Transit bus stop. Harris left the area, but returned a short time later armed with a gun. Harris approached the victim, who was still standing at the bus stop, and shot him 4 times, severely injuring him. The victim nearly succumbed to his injuries and remained hospitalized for 9 days. At the time of the shooting, several commuters and other residents were standing near the bus stop, while others were traveling by bus and car along North Capitol Street.

After the shooting, Harris ran through traffic on North Capitol Street, still armed with the gun, and entered Sursum Corda. Metropolitan Police Department crime cameras recorded Harris as he fled the area, and several witnesses to the shooting assisted the police in identifying and locating Harris.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Robert Saunders, DonJuan Monroe, and Joseph Oh for their work on the investigation of this case. He also commended the USAO staff that assisted in the successful prosecution of the case, including paralegal specialist Tameka Garcia, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Reagan M. Taylor and Michael C. Song.

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